

Welcome to the June DCGO Presentation Summer Gardening



Agenda

- Working in summer heat
- Plants
- Maintenance
- Water
- Mulch
- Solarization

Working in Summer Heat

- Clothing
 - Hat
 - Protects from sun
 - Sleeve length
 - Long sleeves protect from sun and insects
 - Short sleeves allow for cooling
 - Light colored clothing
 - Sun Glasses protect from UV rays and help prevent cataracts
 - Sturdy Gloves

Working in Summer Heat II

- Hydration, sweat cools your body, but dehydrates your body
 - Although low humidity days feel cooler they are more dehydrating.
 - Drink ample non alcoholic fluids before and during work
- Know your limits
 - When possible work in morning or evening when it's cooler
 - Take breaks if working for long periods
 - Stop work if you stop sweating or begin to feel unwell
 - Dizzy, faint or short of breath

HEAT STROKE



WHO AT RISK



SIGN & SYMPTOM



PREVENTION



Plants that Do Well in Summer but Plant before July 20

- Tomatoes and Eggplant, may be planted when the soil warms
- Cucumbers
- Squash
- Okra
- Corn
 - Not recommended for small plots
- Lima beans
- Green Beans
 - Both poll and bush
- Pumpkin



Summer Plants that Should be Planted Before July

- Watermelon plant in April
- Sweet potatoes plant in late May or early June
- Annual Herbs plant in April
- Peppers transplant after the soil warms to 60 degrees
- Generally plants that have long maturities

Fast Maturing Plants that due well in Summer

- Radishes 25 to 30 days
- Arugula 30 days may be planted in partial shade
 - Will bolt quickly if planted in full sun
- Cowpeas less than 60 days if grown to be eaten as green beans up to 90 days for dry beans



Cool Season Vegetables to Start in August

- Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale and onions
- Start seeds in partial shade to be transplanted in September
- Water sufficiently to keep soil moist
- Can use trays, pots or plant in prepared soil with enough room to allow transplanting
- Protect from wildlife



Maintenance

- Weed
 - Weeds use water and other resources plants need
- Harvest when appropriate
 - Rotting fruit is a vector for damaging insects and disease
- Remove dead, diseased and plants that have finished bearing
 - These plants are home for damaging insects and can spread disease



Watering

- In hot weather most plants need one to one and half inches a week
- Best time to water is in the morning
 - Evening is also acceptable
 - If possible avoid watering in the afternoon
- Drip irrigation works best
- Keep water off the leaves as much as practical



Why Mulch

- Conserves moisture
- Adds organic material to soil as it decomposes
- Helps control weeds
- Helps insulate soil
- Reduce need for tillage
- Can improve appearance of garden
- 2 to 4 inches deep
- Don't pile around stems of plants

Materials to use for Mulch

- Wood chips
- Wheat straw, not hay
- Bark use small pices
- Compost
- Leaves shred or mix with straw
- Cardboard place under a thin layer of other mulch
- Newspaper place under a thin layer of other mulch, may require additional nitrogen
- Pine needles, especially for acid loving plants
- Don't use rocks or gravel they radiate heat



Solarization

- Sheet of plastic covers surface of soil to create temperatures lethal to many pests and weeds
- Will reduce weeds and soil pests for three or four months
- May also kill beneficial microorganisms
- Clear bed of weeds and debris including mulch
- Lightly till the soil and make sure it is moist
- Cover soil for six to eight weeks
- Use clear plastic at least 1.5 millimeters
- Use soil to seal the plastic
- Crown the plastic so water doesn't pool



Questions

Thank you